

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

-----141733Z 074289 /41

R 141718Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7398

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, GW

SUBJECT: AN APPLE OF DISCORD BETWEEN THE FDP AND THE
JUDO'S

REF: (A) BONN 5920; (B) BONN A-51 OF FEB. 22, 1977;
(C) BONN 5056

BEGIN SUMMARY: INTRAMURAL SQUABBLES OVER PERSONALITIES
AND COMMUNIST-BACKED DEMONSTRATIONS LED TO THE RECENT
RESIGNATION OF THREE JUDO LEADERS. THE JUNE CONGRESS
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WILL FILL THESE VACANCIES, BUT IT WILL NOT RESOLVE THE BASIC
FDP-JUDO DISPUTE OVER WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE AGAINST
WORKING WITH COMMUNISTS IN SUPPORT OF BROADLY APPEALING
GOALS, SUCH AS DISARMAMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, FDP AND YOUNG DEMOCRAT
(JUDO) FIGURES HAVE GIVEN US A GLOSS ON THE APRIL 3

RESIGNATION BY THE TOP JUDO LEADERSHIP (REF A).

2. FROM GENSCHER ON DOWN, THE FDP SAYS THAT THE JUDO'S ALONE MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO JOIN THE MAY DEMONSTRATIONS SPONSORED BY THE DKP-INFLUENCED "COMMITTEE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND COOPERATION". (THESE DEMONSTRATIONS WILL FOCUS ON DISARMAMENT, A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE JUDO'S HAVE DONE CONSIDERABLE HOMEWORK AND ON WHICH THEY HAVE STRONG VIEWS.) AT THE SAME TIME, THE FDP REJECTS THE NOTION THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION COULD SERVE LIBERAL PRINCIPLES, AND IT WARNS THE JUDO'S THAT THEIR DECISION WILL DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PARTY. THE FDP HAS HELD BACK FROM CRUDER THREATS, MAINLY BECAUSE IT LACKS THE TIGHT CONTROL WHICH, BY CONTRAST, THE SPD HAS ON THE JUSO'S (REF C).

3. DESPITE COMMON ELEMENTS, THE JUDO-FDP FIGHT OVER THIS ISSUE DIFFERS FROM THE JUSO-SPD ONE. ORGANIZATIONALLY, THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE FDP; MANY JUDO'S DO NOT EVEN BELONG TO THE PARTY. THE JUDO'S HAVE THEIR OWN OFFICE; THEY ADMINISTER THEIR OWN FUNDS. FEDERAL SUBSIDIES CHANNELED VIA THE RING POLITISCHER JUGEND (RPJ) MAKE UP THE BULK OF JUDO WHEREWITHAL; THE FDP ALSO GIVES A SUBSIDY AT THE NATIONAL AND LAND LEVEL, TOTALLING ABOUT DM 500,000 PER YEAR. PRIVATELY, JUDO LEADERS CLAIM THAT THE PARTY HAS LITTLE IMMEDIATE LEVERAGE OVER THEM. THEY TELL US THAT A CUTOFF IN THE FDP SUBSIDY WOULD ONLY CAUSE A REDUCTION OF SOME PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, THEY SAY THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY IN THE LONG RUN COULD CLOSE DOWN THE JUDO OPERATION BY PERSUADING BONN TO END ITS RPJ SUBSIDY -- A CONTINGENCY THAT APPEARS REMOTE AT THIS TIME. THE FDP COULD ALSO, AND MAY, CREATE A CONFRONTATION THAT

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WOULD PRODUCE A BREAK-UP OF THE JUDO'S, WITH THE FDP THEN TRYING TO FORM A NEW ORGANIZATION OUT OF THE LESS EXTREME ELEMENTS.

4. THE SO-CALLED COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ON THE DOMESTIC SCENE SINCE LATE 1974. IT HAS A CRAZY-QUILT MEMBERSHIP WHICH BACKS LEFTIST CAUSES. MANY DKP LEADERS AND SYMPATHIZERS WORK IN THE COMMITTEE, AS DO A NUMBER OF GOOD-WILLED, CREDULOUS, AND OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE WILL-
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ING TO JOIN FORCES IN PURSUIT OF GOALS (E.G., DISARM-AMENT) WHICH THEY BELIEVE ARE MUTUAL. SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THE COMMITTEE'S EARLIER DEMONSTRATIONS DID NOT RAISE INTRA-PARTY TENSIONS OF THE MAGNITUDE WHICH THE PROJECTED MAY EXERCISES ARE CAUSING.

5. FOLLOWING THE JUSO RETREAT ON THE ISSUE OF TAKING PART IN NEXT MONTH'S DEMONSTRATIONS, THE JUDO'S MUST MAKE THEIR DECISION. THE MUDDLE IN THEIR LEADERSHIP, AND THE ONGOING CAMPAIGN FOR THE JUNE ELECTIONS, DO NOT MAKE THEIR CHOICE AN EASY ONE. THE JUDO'S ORIGINALLY TRIED TO DUCK THE QUESTION OF TACTICAL ALLIANCES WITH

COMMUNISTS, SEEKING TIME TO AIR THE ISSUE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. INDEED, THEY FOLLOWED THIS STRATEGY AT THEIR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY (REF B). HOWEVER, THE JUSO RESOLUTION IN HAMBURG (REF C) UNDERCUT THAT STRATEGY, WITH THE RESULT THAT ALL JUDO LEVELS ARE NOW IN TURMOIL OVER THE MAY DEMONSTRATIONS. THE THREE JUDO LEADERS WHO RESIGNED LAST WEEK ARE SEEKING TO REGAIN THEIR SEATS AT THE SPECIAL CONVENTION IN JUNE. THERE IS A RESERVOIR OF HOSTILITY AGAINST THEM, ESPECIALLY AGAINST THE FORMER CHAIRMAN, KNIRSCH.

6. AT LEAST THE JUNE CONVENTION WILL FILL THE VACANCIES IN THE JUDO BOARD. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT EXPECT IT TO RESOLVE THE BASIC ISSUE OF TACTICAL ALLIANCES WITH COMMUNIST-LED GROUPS, SUCH AS THE COMMITTEE. THIS WILL REMAIN AN APPLE OF DISCORD BETWEEN THE FDP AND THE JUDO'S, AS IT IS BETWEEN THE SPD AND THE JUSO'S.
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